Applicants do not traverse the lack of unity of invention holding concerning Groups XXIII and XXIV in relation to Groups I-XXII. However, applicants request that the restriction requirement be modified in that Groups I-XXII be rejoined. Applicants respectfully submit that Groups I-XXII have unity of invention because the subject matter of Groups I-XXII share the same or corresponding special technical features. Groups I-XXII share the same or corresponding special technical features in that they are directed to:

- (a) phospholipids of formula (I) having an apolar portion comprising alkyl or acyl chains with one or two cis C=C bonds located at positions which do not occur in naturally occurring mono- and diunsaturated fatty acids (see page 6, lines 4-7 and page 8, lines 8-9 of the specification; and also see formula (VIII) or (IX) and at least one of R₁ and R₂ being a radical of the formula X, XI, XII or XIII under A in claim 1, where A represents the apolar portion of the phospholipids);
 - (b) liposomes comprising such phospholipids; and
 - (c) compositions comprising such phospholipids or liposomes.

The special technical feature is a phospholipid of formula (I) having an apolar portion comprising alkyl or acyl chains with one or two cis C=C bonds located at positions which do not occur in naturally occurring mono- and diunsaturated fatty acids. Applicants submit that phospholipids of formula (I) having an apolar portion comprising alkyl or acyl chains with one or two cis C=C bonds located at positions which do not occur in naturally occurring mono- and diunsaturated fatty acids are novel over the prior art. Phospholipids of the prior art have naturally occurring mono- or diunsaturated fatty acid side chains. If the compounds of claim 1 are patentable, the liposomes containing

these compounds and the compositions comprising these liposomes or compounds should also be patentable. Thus, Groups I-XXII should be combined because they relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of time